

Welcoming **Dave Graybill** To The **Nickel Ads** *Classifieds* The Fishin' Magician

I was talking to someone the other day about all the great fishing going on right now in our region. It is tough to decide which way to go. Even with all the angling opportunities this spring, imagine what the rest of the year will be like. I have thought about the variety of great fishing that will be coming up this season, and then I realized that the month of April is really loaded. Between seminars, kids fishing events and the general trout season opener there is something terrific happening all month long. Let me walk you through it all.

The "April Fools Opener" hits on a Thursday this year, so the pressure on the lakes in the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area won't be that heavy. I plan to visit the area myself to see how anglers do on just a few of the many lakes that open to fishing down there. Some of the best rainbow I see all year are taken from one of the Hampton lakes on the first week of the season. Last week I gave everyone the details on what is expected of the Hampton lakes and others for April 1st. If you missed that issue, go to my web site and click on Weekly Column and you'll find it there.

On Wednesday, April 7th, Town Ford in Wenatchee is offering another seminar. I have arranged for Shane Magnuson of Upper Columbia Guide Services to come and speak on the fishing for spring salmon on the Icicle River.

He will also touch on the fishing for spring salmon on Drano Lake and the Wind River. Gordon Steinmetz is a real expert on the fishing for walleye on the lakes in our region, and he will share what he knows about his tactics and techniques.

Valley Marine from Yakima will also be on hand with some of their fishing boats to inspect. There will be free drawings for prizes, including a salmon weight rod and reel from Hooked on Toys. The seminar starts at 6 p.m. at the dealership.

Families in Moses Lake with kids age 5 to 14 will want to attend the second annual Kids Fishing Derby at Connelly Park. The folks at the Irrigation and Rehabilitation District have been busy getting the park ready for the event. Pepsi will be there to make sure no ones thirsty and hot dogs will be served. There will be double the number of trout in the pond for the kids to catch, and three anglers will win a rod and reel combo and tackle box from Hooked on Toys and a night's stay at Mar Don Resort, Tiffany's Resort or the Pateros Lakeshore Inn. There will also be a casting contest this year, with prizes for the top three finishers in each flight. Registration for the event is free and forms can be picked up at MaMa's, Dairy Queen or the Airway Height Deli.

On the following Saturday, April 17th, it's the annual Rock Island Kids Fishing Day.

Once again the City of Rock Island is inviting families to come down to the Pitt Pond for a days fishing. Pitt is a Juvenile Pond and only those under the age of 15 can fish here, so it's perfect for beginning fishing families. The pond will be loaded with rainbow (including some whoppers), and Ray Pearson and his crew will be there cooking hot dogs, and Pepsi will be providing sodas and water again this year. The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association volunteers will be set up near the cooking tent to help anglers get rigged up right to catch fish and will have a supply of bait and tackle.

The weekend of April 24th and 25th is big one: the general lowland lake season opener.

This is when an estimated 400,000 or more anglers flock to the many lakes throughout the state that are managed for the spring opening day. West side lakes will be crowded but the majority of anglers will be heading our direction to try their luck on the premium trout waters of Central Washington. I will be providing readers with details on what the Department of Fish and Wildlife projects as the best prospects for the opening weekend this year.

Fly fishers who don't suffer through the winter weather to chase steelhead will be interested in an event that will really help them launch their year of fishing. It's the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. The Fair is held



at the Kittitas County Events Center, and this year it is scheduled for Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st. Admission is just five dollars for both days, and Fly Fishing Federation members and youth under the age of sixteen get in for free. Both days are loaded with fly tying demonstrations, classes on casting and tying and seminars. There is even a class on Drift Boat Handling and Safety on the Water, presented by Red's Fly Shop this year. Featured fly tier this year is Skip Morris, and the caster is Brian O'Keefe. Saturday evening is annual Awards Banquet and Auction. To learn more about the Fair and to register for classes and get tickets to the banquet, log on to washingtoncouncilfff.org.

How's that for a line up.
 It looks like April's going to be a busy month!

Reach Dave at:
www.FishingMagician.com
 or Fishboy@nwi.net

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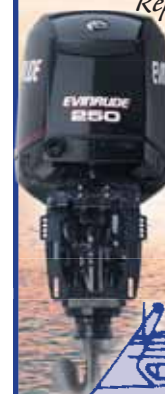
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